



**North Pima Needs and Assets
Presentation 05-16-2014**

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Executive Summary

This report highlights key population, socioeconomic, health and economic indicators that pertain to children birth through age five and their families in the North Pima region. A comprehensive list of demographic indicators specific to each zip code is available in Section Two of this report (the Zip Code Fact Box Resource Guide).

The North Pima Region Geography

The North Pima region has a diverse geography that includes 14 inhabited zip codes with metropolitan, retirement, suburban and rural areas. It includes the Catalina Mountains and the Northern Foothills section of Tucson. The northwest portion of this region -- especially the towns of Marana and Oro Valley -- experienced rapid growth in recent years.

Population

- The 2010 Census reports that the population of the First Things First North Pima region was 265,545. This is 19 percent higher than the population of 222,661 reported in the 2000 Census, showing the region's strong growth.
- The number of children birth through age five for the North Pima region in 2010 was 15,361, up 7 percent from 14,332 reported in the 2000 Census. Children in this age group currently comprise 6 percent of the regional population.
- Approximately two thirds of children born in the North Pima region in 2012 were white (67 percent), significantly more than both the Pima County rate of 43 percent and state rate of 45 percent, as reported by the Arizona Department of Health's Vital Statistics Office. As for ethnicity, the region's proportion of Hispanic/Latino children was much lower than that of the county and state. Hispanic/Latino births made up 23 percent of all North Pima births in 2012, while Hispanic/Latino births in 2012 represented 45 percent of all Pima County births and 39 percent of all births statewide.
- The number of births in the North Pima region increased slightly between 2010 and 2012, according to the Arizona Department of Health's Vital Statistics Office. In both 2010 and 2011, 2,250 children were born in the region; 2,320 children were born in 2012.

Social and Economic Circumstances

- Poverty disproportionately impacts young children in the North Pima region, Pima County and statewide, according to the 2007-2011 ACS. Approximately 7 percent of the general population in the North Pima region lived in poverty, compared to 16 percent in Pima County and 15 percent in the state. In contrast, approximately 12 percent of children birth through age five lived in poverty in the North Pima region. In Pima County, 25 percent of children in this age group endured poverty, as did 24 percent of children in this age group throughout the state.

- Child poverty for children birth through age five in the North Pima region has increased over time. The 2007-2011 American Community Survey estimated the regional early childhood poverty rate at 12 percent, which is a six percent increase over the rate of 6 percent reported in the 2000 Census.
- According to the 2008-2012 ACS, 42 percent of mothers in Pima County and 44 percent of mothers in Tucson were unmarried, more than the state average of 38 percent. Among unmarried mothers in Pima County, 29 percent had less than a high school diploma compared to 11 percent of married mothers.

Early Childhood Education and Child Care

- In Pima County, the 2008-2012 ACS reported that 53 percent of children birth through age five living with both parents had both parents in the workforce (22,595) and 77 percent of children living with one parent had that parent in the workforce (22,476 children). These children with working parents, about 45,071, need some type of child care. Child care may also be needed for the children of non-working parents who are trying to find employment or who are attending school.
- Regulated child care and education providers include ADHS licensed centers, ADHS certified group homes, and DES certified family homes. Unregulated providers are not licensed or certified by any agency. The FTF North Pima region had 127 child care and education providers in December 2013 registered with the Child Care Resource and Referral database, a 13 percent increase over the 111 providers registered in December 2011. Among regulated providers in 2013, 89 were ADHS licensed centers, 11 were ADHS certified group homes, and 19 were DES certified family homes. In addition, 8 providers were unregulated homes.
- Capacity among providers has increased recently, as they are able to care for substantially more children than reported in the 2012 Needs and Assets Report. The maximum authorized capacity of all care and education providers in December 2013 was about 11,398 compared to the 8,136 slots that were reported to be authorized in December 2011. If one assumes that 80 percent of that capacity is used for children birth through age five, licensed and certified providers in the North Pima region had slots for an estimated 9,118 children in this age group in December 2013. That is, licensed and certified providers had the capacity to provide care for 59 percent of the 15,361 estimated children birth through age five in the region. This is a substantially higher than the 42 percent reported in the 2012 Needs and Assets Report.
- Due to the economic recession and declines in state revenues, the state legislature reduced many family support programs including child care subsidies. From January 2010 to January 2012, the number of families eligible for the child care subsidy decreased by 17 percent throughout both the state and county and by 15 percent in the North Pima region. In response to the cuts, the North Pima Regional Partnership Council is expending funds on providing scholarships to children through Quality First enrolled providers.

- Quality First (QF) is one of the cornerstone systemic strategies of First Things First to improve access to high quality early learning and care settings for children birth through age five. As of December 2013, there were 31 QF enrolled providers in the region.
- The average cost of full-time care across all providers in the region in December 2013 ranged from \$154 per week for infant care to \$138 per week for the care of four-to-five-year-olds. Infant care in licensed centers was \$195 per week on average, compared with \$157 per week for four-to-five-year-olds. In DES certified homes, infant care cost \$134 per week on average, compared to \$128 per week for four- to five-year-olds.

Family Supports

- In the North Pima region, 85 children, or less than one percent (0.6 percent) of the 15,363 children birth through age five, received TANF (or cash assistance) benefits. This proportion is lower than that of Pima County (3 percent) and the state (2 percent). TANF enrollments are low and have declined in recent years because of state legislative actions to restrict program benefits.
- In the North Pima region, Pima County and Arizona, the proportion of children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in January 2012 was significantly higher than for TANF benefits. Approximately 3,028 children birth through age five were receiving nutritional assistance in the North Pima region in January 2012, or 20 percent of the children in this age group. In Pima County, 42 percent of children in this age group received the SNAP benefit, as did 40 percent of these children statewide in January 2012.
- In January 2012, 1,707 children birth through age four were enrolled in the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) program in the North Pima region. This represents 80 percent of the 2,139 children who were eligible for the program.
- The North Pima Regional Partnership Council has been implementing a combined strategy of in-home parenting education (home visitation) and community-based parenting education in order to increase service accessibility for families in collaboration with the community partners it funds to provide these services.
- The North Pima Regional Partnership Council has implemented multiple service coordination and collaboration strategies, both within the region and cross-regionally with other FTF councils. These strategies seek to inform the greater community of the importance of early childhood education, health and development, increase the capacity and infrastructure for early childhood education and care, deliver parent education and family support services to families of young children and deliver innovative professional development for child care and education professionals.

Health

- The North Pima region has indicators of somewhat more positive prenatal health than Pima County and the state. Data from the Arizona Department of Health's Vital Statistics Office for 2012 show fewer than 25 mothers, or less than one percent of mothers in the region in 2012 lacked prenatal care, less than the county and state rates of 1 percent. Approximately 3 percent of pregnant mothers in the region in 2012 reported smoking, slightly less than the 4 percent in the county and state. The region's 2012 pre-term birth rate, at 8 percent, is slightly less than that the rate of 9 percent for the county and state.
- Indicators relating to family structure and poverty put the North Pima region in a better position than the county and state. Arizona Department of Health's Vital Statistics for 2012 reveal that in the North Pima region, 27 percent of mothers giving birth were not married compared to 44 percent for the county and 45 percent for the state. The North Pima region had a much lower rate of births to teen mothers (5 percent in 2012) than the county (9 percent) and state (9 percent). The region's share of publicly funded births, at 30 percent, was much lower than the county rate of 52 percent and the state rate of 53 percent.
- Immunization rates for the North Pima region in 2012 were similar to those of the county and slightly higher than the state average. Approximately 73 percent of children in the North Pima region completed immunizations for the 12-24 month series, compared to 74 percent in the county and 69 percent in the state. About 54 percent of children ages 19-35 months in the region completed the immunization series in 2012, compared to 55 percent for the county and 48 percent for the state.

Conclusion

The North Pima region is made up of diverse communities whose families with young children vary in their capacities, resources and needs. Despite affluence in communities like the Catalina Foothills, the data presented in Section Two of this report (the Zip Code Fact Box Resource Guide) show significant variation in terms of need on a range of indicators throughout the North Pima region. Children and families in unincorporated rural communities such as Rillito, Catalina and Picture Rocks have significant socio-economic needs.

In response to this challenge, the North Pima Regional Partnership Council over the past six years has sought to fund strategies to coordinate services and build capacity for early childhood care, education and support services. Through partnering with service delivery organizations, the North Pima Regional Partnership Council has sought to create a seamless system of services for families and children that builds trust among community members and provides crucial services, especially in the more remote places of this region. The council's funding strategies and partnerships demonstrate an ongoing commitment to impact the care, health and educational needs of children birth through five years of age in the North Pima region.

Approach to the Report

This is the fourth Needs and Assets report conducted on behalf of the First Things First North Pima Regional Partnership Council. It fulfills the requirement of ARS Title 8, Chapter 13, Section 1161, to submit a biannual report to the Arizona Early Childhood Health and Development Board detailing the assets, coordination opportunities and unmet needs of children birth through age five and their families in the region. The information in the report is designed to serve as a resource for members of the North Pima Regional Partnership Council (RPC) to inform and enhance planning and decision-making regarding strategies, activities and funding allocations for early childhood development, education and health.

The report has two parts. Part One provides an update of selected data regarding demographic characteristics of the region's children birth through age five and their families; the early care, development and health systems; as well as selected services and assets available to children and families. Part Two presents the majority of the data in the report—focusing on data trends for the most relevant information available at the zip code. This is intended to be used as a fact finder resource guide to help inform and target strategies, activities and funding allocations at the most local level possible. The introduction to this section contains a key to the fact boxes to assist in understanding and interpreting the numbers.

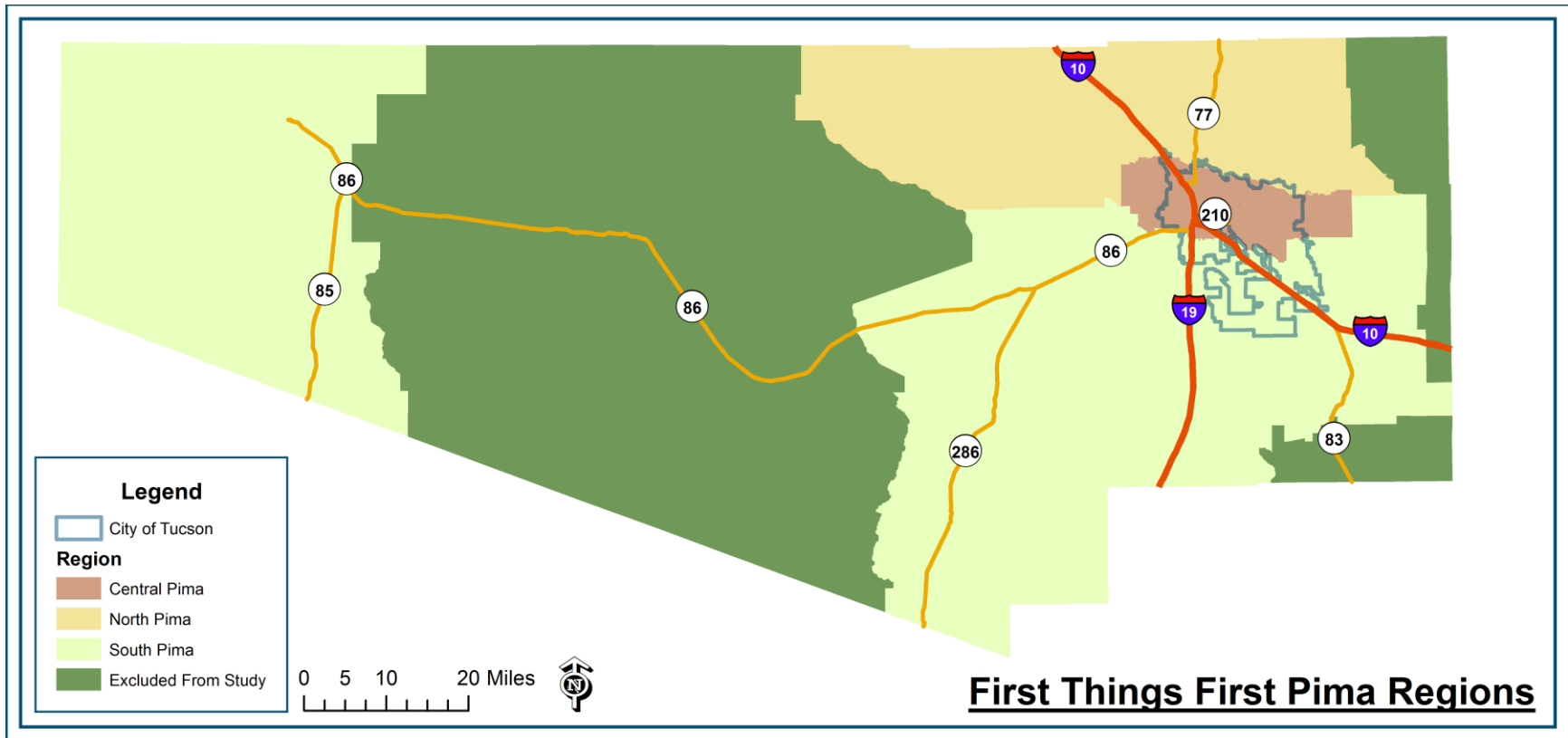
Wherever possible, data throughout the report are provided specifically for the North Pima Region, and are often presented alongside data for the state of Arizona for comparative purposes. The report contains data from state and local agencies and organizations. A special request for data was made to the following state agencies by FTF on behalf of the consultants: Arizona Department of Education, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Department of Health Services, and FTF itself. Much of the data in this report derive from these sources.

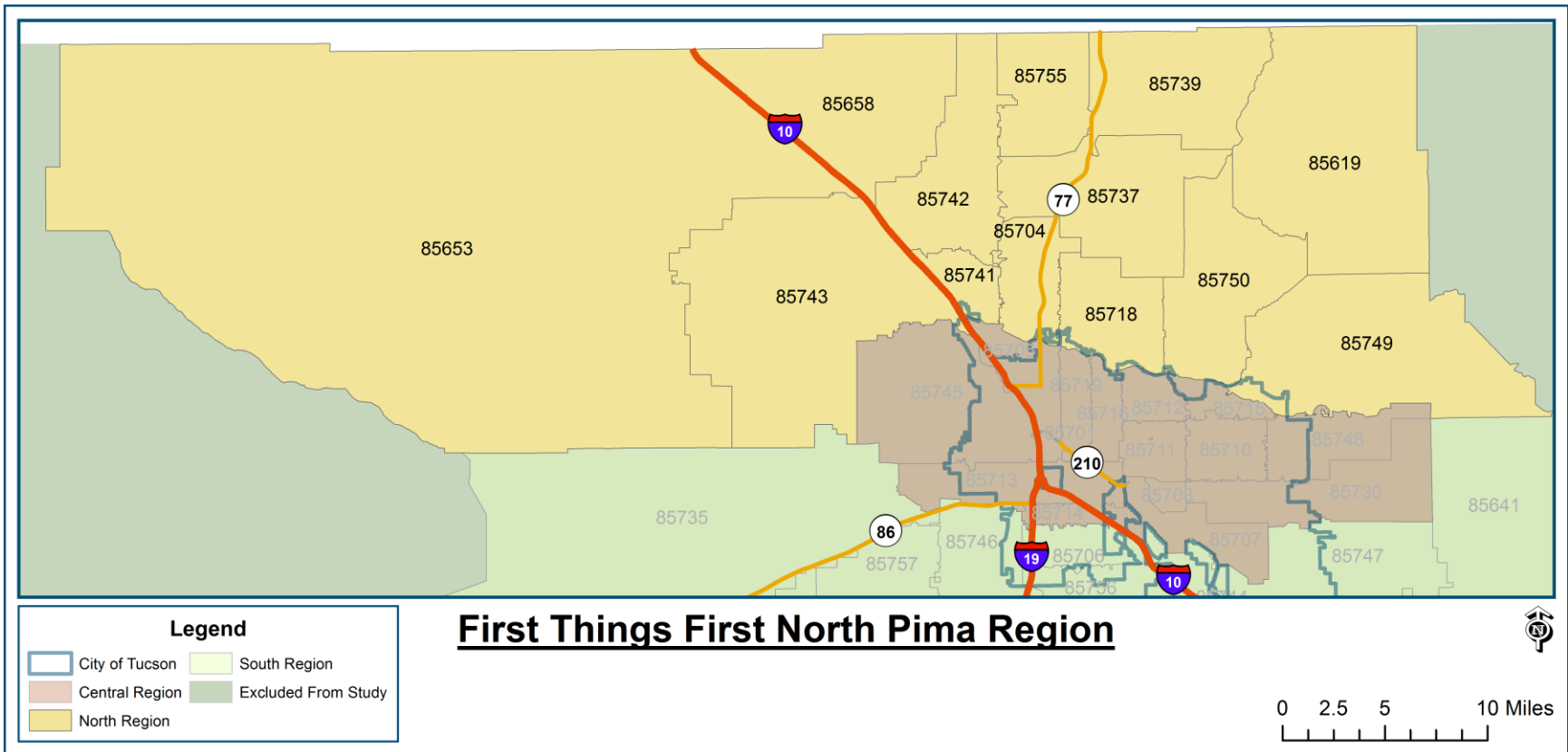
The primary sources of demographic information are the 2000 Census, the 2010 Census, and two sets of estimates from the American Community Survey: data from 2007-2011 for poverty estimates and from 2008-2012 for additional socio-demographic updates. Because of a significant change in the 2010 Census methodology, many of the indicators previously collected in the long form of the decennial census are no longer being collected in the census (income, education, and other important demographic characteristics). The American Community Survey (ACS) is now the only source available for many of these indicators. However, because of the way ACS samples from the population, margins of error for numbers below the county level are often very high. This means that data for zip codes, small cities and towns are often not reliable.

There is little, if any, coordination of data collection systems within and across state and local agencies and organizations. This results in a fractured data system that often makes the presentation, analysis, comparison and interpretation of data difficult. Many indicators that are of critical importance to young children and their families are not collected. Therefore, there are many areas of interest with data deficiencies. Furthermore, the differences across agencies in the timing, method of collection, unit of analysis, geographic or content level, presentation and dissemination of data often result in inconsistencies. Methods of data collection and reporting can also change from year to year within state agencies, making the comparison of numbers across years difficult. For example, previous reports presented birth characteristics for each zip code. As of 2010, however, birth data are no longer publicly available at the zip code level based on a decision by Arizona Department of Health Services, Vital

Statistics Office. Therefore, we are limited to providing birth data at the state and regional levels in this report.

This document is not designed to be an evaluation report. Therefore, critical information on new assets that are being created through the North Pima Regional Council's investment in ongoing activities and strategies are not fully covered. Evaluation data from grantees can be used to supplement the assets that are mentioned in this report. The North Pima Regional Council's funding plan snapshots for fiscal years 2013-2015, 2013 and 2014 are included for reference in Appendices B, C, and D.





PART ONE

I. Demographic Overview: North Pima Region

The North Pima region has a diverse geography with metropolitan, retirement, suburban and rural areas. The region includes part of the Catalina Mountains and the Northern Foothills section of Tucson. Two towns continue to experience rapid growth: Marana and Oro Valley.

The North Pima region has significant economic and educational assets. The region has one major medical facility, the Northwest Medical Center, located in Oro Valley (the second location is in the Central Pima Region in Tucson). The Marana Health Center also operates in several locations within the region. It functions as a multi-service health care clinic and community services center. Tourism is a major industry, with numerous vacation and conference destinations, museums, parks and recreational areas. Large companies, such as Wal-Mart and Honeywell, provide local employment along with the hundreds of small businesses located within the region. Many residents are employed outside of the region in Tucson, where families also conduct many of their activities and access services.

Ten public and charter school districts operate schools in the North Pima region: Amphitheater Unified School District, Catalina Foothills Unified School District, Daisy Education Corporation (Sonoran Science Academy) Charter District, Flowing Wells Unified School District, Hermosa Montessori Charter School District, Khalsa Family Services Charter District, Lifelong Learning Research Institute, Inc. Charter District, Marana Unified School District, Tanque Verde Unified School District and Tucson Unified School District. Other assets are described throughout the report.

The regional map shows the location of the inhabited zip codes within the region. There are fourteen inhabited zip codes: 85619, 85653, 85654, 85658, 85704, 85718, 85737, 85739, 85741, 85742, 85743, 85749, 85750, and 85755.

Table 1 lists the region's communities and municipalities clustered by zip code and geographic location.

Table 1. Communities and Zip Codes within the North Pima Region

Zip code ^a	Cities, Towns and Neighborhoods
85619	Summerhaven
85653	Avra Valley, W. Marana
85654	Rillito P.O. Boxes
85658	East Marana
85704	Casas Adobes
85718	West Catalina Foothills

85737	South Oro Valley
85739	Catalina
85741	Tucson W.Ina/Camino de la Tierra
85742	Tortolita
85743	Picture Rocks
85749	Tanque Verde
85750	East Catalina Foothills
85755	North Oro Valley

^a A total of 17 zip codes are listed for the North Pima region. Three of these are post office boxes or unique zip codes with no inhabitants: 85652, 85738, and 85740. Zip code 85654 (Rillito) is listed as a post office box zip code, however, several sources providing information for this report supplied data about its residents (or users of that post office box) so it is included in Part II data tables.

I.A. Population and Poverty Trends

In this section, population and poverty statistics are presented for the general population and for children birth through age five. Tables 2, 3 and 4 display the numbers and proportions for these two populations in Arizona, Pima County and the North Pima region, respectively. The data come from three sources: the 2000 Census, the 2010 Census and the 2007-2011 American Community Survey five-year estimates.

In the 2010 Census, children birth through age five comprised 8.6 percent of the population in Arizona (n = 546,609; Table 2). In Pima County, they comprised 7.6 percent of the total county population (n = 74,796; Table 3), and in the North Pima region, 5.7 percent of the regional population (n = 15,361; Table 4).

The number of children birth through age five in poverty is key for targeting services to children demonstrating the greatest need. The most current estimate from the ACS shows that 1,766 children in the North Pima region are living in poverty (Table 4). Poverty disproportionately impacts young children compared to the general population in the North Pima region, Pima County and Arizona. Approximately 14.6 percent of the general population in Arizona lives in poverty, 15.5 percent in Pima County, and 6.6 percent in the North Pima region. In contrast, 24.2 percent of children birth through age five in Arizona live in poverty. This is true for 24.9 percent of young children in Pima County and 11.5 percent of this age group in the North Pima region. Poverty ratios are significantly lower in the North Pima region than in Arizona and Pima County.

The percent of children birth through age five in poverty increased in all three geographical areas when comparing the 2000 Census with later estimates. In Arizona, it increased from 20.5 to 24.2 percent (Table 2), in Pima County, from 21.2 to 24.9 percent (Table 3) and in the North Pima region, from 6.3 to 11.5 percent (Table 4).

More detailed, zip code level data for the number of children birth through age five from the 2010 Census and poverty estimates from the ACS 2007-2011 are available in Part Two (the Zip Code Fact Box Resource Guide).

Table 2. Population and Poverty Statistics for Arizona, Census 2000, Census 2010 and ACS 2007-2011

Arizona			
	Census 2000	Census 2010	ACS 2007-2011
Population	5,130,632	6,392,017	
Population in Poverty	698,669		933,113
Percent of Population in Poverty	13.6%		14.6%
Population 0-5	459,141	546,609	
Population 0-5 in Poverty	94,187		132,517

Percent Population 0-5 in Poverty	20.5%		24.2%
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Source: Census 2000; Census 2010; and ACS 2007-2011 obtained by FTF; see Appendix E for table references

Table 3. Population and Poverty Statistics for Pima County, Census 2000, Census 2010 and ACS 2007-2011

Pima County			
	Census 2000	Census 2010	ACS 2007-2011
Population	841,969	980,263	
Population in Poverty	118,014		152,182
Percent of Population in Poverty	14.0%		15.5%
Population 0-5	66,426	74,796	
Population 0-5 in Poverty	14,108		18,649
Percent Population 0-5 in Poverty	21.2%		24.9%

Source: Census 2000; Census 2010; and ACS 2007-2011 obtained by FTF; see Appendix E for table references

Table 4. Population and Poverty Statistics for North Pima Region, Census 2000, Census 2010 and ACS 2007-2011

North Pima Region			
	Census 2000	Census 2010	ACS 2007-2011
Population	222,661	265,545	
Population in Poverty	11,459		17,634
Percent of Population in Poverty	5.1%		6.6%
Population 0-5	14,332	15,361	
Population 0-5 in Poverty	906		1,766
Percent Population 0-5 in	6.3%		11.5%

Poverty			
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Source: Census 2000; Census 2010; and ACS 2007-2011 obtained by FTF; see Appendix E for table references

I.B. Employment Status of Parents

Table 5 presents the number of parents of children birth through age five who were in the workforce. The 2008-2012 ACS provides estimates for Arizona and Pima County only, so no information specific to the North Pima region is available. The table presents information about parents who lived with their own children (no other household configurations are included).

In Pima County, 59 percent of children birth through age five lived with two parents, and of those, 53 percent had both parents in the workforce (n=22,595). Approximately 41 percent of children birth through age five lived with one parent, and of those, 77 percent had that parent in the workforce (n=22,476). For two-parent families where both parents are in the workforce and one-parent families where that parent is in the workforce, some form of child care is required. The ACS estimates show that this was the case for about 45,071 children birth through age five in Pima County. (The ACS 2008-2012 estimate for the number of children birth through age five in Pima County is 74,202.)

Table 5. Employment Status of Parents Living with Own Children Birth through Age Five in Arizona and Pima County, 2008-2012 ACS

	Arizona		Pima County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Children under 6 living in families	526,186	100%	71,856	100%
Children under 6 living with two parents	324,947	62%	42,508	59%
Children under 6 living with two parents with both parents in the work force	166,683	51%	22,595	53%
Children under 6 living with one parent	201,239	38%	29,348	41%
Children under 6 living with one parent with that parent in the work force	149,267	74%	22,476	77%

Source: 2008-2012 ACS, see Appendix E for table references.

I.C. Educational Attainment of New Mothers

An important indicator associated with child development is the educational attainment of mothers. Table 6 presents estimates from the 2008-2012 American Community Survey on the percent of new mothers who are married and unmarried and their educational attainment. Estimates for the state as a whole show

that 38 percent of mothers were unmarried, and of those, 31 percent had less than a high school education. Among married mothers, 15 percent were estimated to have less than a high school education. In Pima County, 42 percent of mothers were unmarried. Tucson was slightly higher at 44 percent. In Pima County, 29 percent of unmarried mothers had less than a high school diploma compared to 11 percent of married mothers. In Tucson, 30 percent of unmarried mothers and 15 percent of married mothers reported less than a high school education. It is possible that some of these new mothers completed their high school diplomas and further education at a later time.

**Table 6. Educational Attainment of New Mothers in Arizona, Pima County and Tucson
(Women 15-50 Who Gave Birth during the Past 12 Months), 2008-2012 ACS**

	Arizona	Pima County	Tucson
Unmarried Mothers:	38%	42%	44%
Married Mothers:	62%	58%	56%
Unmarried Mothers:	100%	100%	100%
Less Than High School Graduate	31%	29%	30%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	27%	30%	31%
Some College or Associate's Degree	35%	38%	35%
Bachelor's Degree	4%	3%	3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	1%	1%	1%
Married Mothers:	100%	100%	100%
Less Than High School Graduate	15%	11%	15%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	20%	20%	22%
Some College or Associate's Degree	35%	38%	37%
Bachelor's Degree	20%	21%	18%
Graduate or Professional Degree	10%	11%	8%

Source: 2008-2012 ACS. See Appendix E for table references.

II. The Early Childhood System

II.A. Early Childhood Education and Child Care in the North Pima Region

Families with young children face critical decisions about the care and education of their young ones. For several decades, robust research has demonstrated that the nature and quality of the care and educational programs young children experience have an immediate impact on their well-being and development as well as a long-term impact on their learning and later success in life. However, parents are compelled to consider many factors when making decisions about their children's care and early education. Cost and location are two of the most critical factors. Parents seeking out-of-home care and education for their children weigh the convenience, affordability and quality of regulated centers and homes compared to kith and kin care.

The extent of the use of kith and kin care compared to the more formal care and education settings is one of the main questions decision makers have. This issue is fundamental to supply and demand in early childhood care and education. It is a difficult issue to assess because there is no existing source of data regarding the number of children cared for by family, friends and neighbors. Nor are there comprehensive, systematic, or up-to-date numbers on enrollments in the regulated settings that assist in estimating the proportion of children attending them. Therefore, one way to think about supply and demand is to look at the number of children birth through age five and compare that number to a reasonable estimate of the number of formal child care/education slots available in a given geographic area. Capacity is often used rather than enrollments since the latter are not available. Various communities around the country have used this approach.¹ Information about the cost of care is systematically available for regulated care settings only. Looking at the cost of different types of regulated care for different age groups provides insight into the opportunities and barriers for parents in varying income brackets. No comprehensive information exists on the cost of kith and kin care in the North Pima region but the cost of formal care is available and is discussed below.

1. Access: North Pima Region's Regulated Early Childhood Education and Care Providers

An assessment of the number of children birth through age five in the region compared to an estimate of the number of formal care slots available illustrates the current system's capacity to provide formal care and education. This section looks at the care and education centers in the North Pima region that are included in the Department of Economic Security Child Care Administration's Child Care Resource and Referral list, a database that includes most, if not all, of the licensed and certified providers in the region. Child and Family Resources, Inc. maintains the database for the southern region of Arizona and acts as a referral center for parents looking for child care. The database emphasizes licensed and certified child care providers but some unregulated care providers may also be listed. Unregulated providers that are listed must meet a prescribed set of requirements (See Table 7). The database is available online and parents can search for providers on the internet by zip code. Child and Family Resources updates the database on a regular basis to maintain current information. The table that follows describes the categories of providers on the list and their characteristics.

¹ IL Department of Human Services: Ounce of Prevention Fund, Chicago Early Childhood Care and Education Needs Assessment, Illinois Facilities Fund, Chicago, Illinois, 1999.

Table 7. Categories of Early Childhood Education and Care Providers in Arizona

Categories	Setting and Number of Children Allowed	Relationship with DES Child Care Subsidy	Adult per child ratio
ADHS* Licensed Child Care Centers (includes licensed providers on military bases)	Provide care in non-residential settings for five or more children	May contract with DES to serve families that receive assistance to pay for child care	Infants – 1:5 or 2:11 Age 1 – 1:6 or 2:13 Age 2 – 1:18 Age 3 – 1:13 Age 4 – 1:15 Age 5 and up – 1:20
ADHS Certified Group Homes	Provide care in residential setting for up to 10 children for compensation or 15 including provider's children	May contract with DES to serve families that receive assistance to pay for child care	1:5
DES Certified Home	Provide care in residential setting for up to 4 children for compensation or up to 6 including provider's children	May care for children whose families receive DES child care assistance	1:6
CCR&R Listed Family Child Care Homes – Not Certified or Monitored by Any State Agency but must meet some requirements	Provide care in residential setting for no more than four children at one time for compensation	Are not eligible to care for children whose families receive DES child care assistance	1:4

Sources: Child & Family Resources; Child Care Resource and Referral Brochure and Reference Guide

*Arizona Department of Health Services

Table 8 presents a summary of the early childhood education and care providers listed in the Child Care Resource and Referral database in the North Pima region in December 2011. For each category of provider listed in the table above, the table includes additional characteristics:

- 1) the number of providers contracted with DES to provide care to children whose families are eligible to receive child care subsidies

- 2) the number of providers that participate in the CACFP program, a federal program that provides reimbursement for meals
- 3) the number of Head Start programs (federally funded and free for eligible families)
- 4) the number of Quality First programs (discussed below)
- 5) the number of programs that are accredited (discussed below)
- 6) the maximum number of slots the provider is authorized for (discussed in the next section)
- 7) the desired capacity providers reported as opposed to their authorized capacity

Table 8. North Pima Region Number of Early Childhood Education and Care Providers on CCR&R List Serving Each Age Group and the Average Full-Time Cost per Age Group per Week, December 2013

	Number	Contracted with DES	CACFP Food Program	Head Start	Quality First	Accred-ited	Maximum Reported Capacity by Regulatory Status	Desired Capacity
ADHS Licensed Center	89	55	20	3	27	10	11,183	9,558
ADHS Certified Group Home	11	4	7		2		107	107
DES Certified Home	19	19	12		2		76	76
Listed Home (Unregulated)	8		1				32	32
Total	127	78	42	3	31	10		
Maximum Reported Capacity by Program Characteristic (not mutually exclusive)		7,160	2,827	242	3,848	1,353	11,398	9,773
Children 0-5 2010 Population							15,363	
ACS 2008-2012 Estimate of Children 0-5 in Poverty							1,776	

Source: Child and Family Resources, DES CCR&R database, accessed December 2013

When comparing the number of providers listed on the CCR&R in December 2011 with those listed in December 2013, ADHS licensed centers increased from 65 to 89; ADHS certified group homes increased from 8 to 11, DES certified homes decreased from 21 to 19; listed unregulated homes decreased from 17 to 8. The total number of providers listed in 2013 was 127, an increase over the 111 reported in 2012 (12.6 percent). The total licensed capacity increased from 8,136 to 11,183 (although, as explained below, licensed centers in particular do not typically provide services to the total number of children they are authorized to accommodate). The desired capacity reported across all providers in the region was 9,773 (about 1,600 fewer slots than their authorized capacity).

a. Capacity

Enrollment numbers are not systematically reported, so there is no reliable information on the number of children receiving care from licensed or certified early care and education providers. An alternative to enrollment numbers is the system's capacity to provide care. Several points are important to consider in understanding the capacity of child care providers. The first point is that although the capacity of providers is important, the primary goal and priority of First Things First and providers is to deliver quality early child care and education. Given this priority, a provider may purposely not meet their maximum authorized capacity in order to maintain a desirable ratio of staff to children that meets quality standards. This would result in providers enrolling fewer children than they are authorized for by the state in order to maintain quality care and/or to provide adequate part-time care to certain age groups. This is reflected in the providers' "desired capacity" that appears in Table 8.

The second point to consider is that the maximum capacity that licensed and certified providers report is an imperfect way to count available slots but it is the only indicator that is systematically available. The maximum authorized capacity for most providers includes slots for 5- to 12-year-olds. The number of slots for each age group is not specified, which means that the slots for 5- to 12-year-olds cannot be subtracted from the total. As stated above, the total number of slots that providers were authorized for in the North Pima region in December 2013 was 11,398 including 5- to 12-year-olds. When we compare this to the 8,136 slots that were reported to be authorized in December 2011, this represents an increase of 28.6%, or over one quarter of capacity. If one makes the assumption that 80 percent of the current slots are for children birth through age five, the North Pima region would have about 9,118 places for these children. The most current estimate for the number of children in this age group, which comes from the 2010 Census, is 15,361. Therefore, licensed and certified providers have the capacity to provide care for about 59 percent of the 0-5 age group in the region, a substantially higher proportion than the 42 percent reported in the 2012 Needs and Assets Report. Their reported desired capacity (9,773), minus an assumed 20 percent for 5- to 12-year-olds, would result in slots for 51 percent of the children birth through age five in the region.

Table 9 presents information about average enrollments in licensed centers across Arizona. Data from the 2012 DES Child Care Market Rate Survey confirm that licensed centers are authorized to provide care for more children than they normally attending their center. In the sample of centers and homes interviewed for that study, the number of children attending on a typical day was 56.3 percent of authorized capacity

for all providers, including 54.7 percent for licensed centers, 81.9 percent for group homes and 83.2 percent for certified homes. The survey includes slots for school-aged children five to twelve years old.

Applying the state average percent of capacity used on an average day to North Pima region's providers, enrollments across all providers would be approximately 6,462

on a given day, and that includes 5- to 12-year-olds. If we assume that 80 percent of the average daily enrollments are children birth through age five, there would be 5,170 children in this age group enrolled on a typical day in the North Pima region. Based on these numbers, it is reasonable to conclude that a significant number of children birth through age five are being cared for in the home and in unregulated kith and kin care.

**Table 9. Available Slots Versus Demand for Slots in Arizona
in the 2012 DES Market Rate Survey**

	Number of Providers Interviewed	Approved Number of Children to Care For	Number of Children Cared For on an Average Day	Percent of Total Capacity Used on an Average Day
Centers	1,787	194,108	106,222	54.7%
Certified Group Homes	306	3,003	2,460	81.9%
Approved Homes	1,676	8,057	6,707	83.2%
Total	3,769	204,946	115,389	56.3%

Source: 2012 DES Market Rate Survey

b. Additional Information from the CCR&R Database

The CCR&R table also shows that in December 2013 approximately 61 percent of all regulated care centers were authorized to provide care for families receiving DES child care subsidies (issues and the subsidy are discussed below). About 33 percent of providers were enrolled in the food subsidy program Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The region has 3 Head Start centers. Information related to quality issues is discussed in a separate section that follows.

c. Providers Serving Specific Age Groups and Costs

Table 37 presents a breakdown of the information provided in the CCR&R database on the ages served by each type of provider and the average cost per age group. The costs reported are for full-time care per week. The majority of providers, 72 percent, reported the costs. Service provision and costs for 5- to 12-year-olds are included even though they do not fall under the mandate of First Things First. It is important

to be aware of the presence of school-aged children in settings that provide services to children birth through age five.

As expected, of the ADHS licensed centers that reported costs, the fees were the highest on average across younger age groups, ranging from \$195.43 per week for infants to \$156.64 for 4- to 5-year-olds. Their fees were higher than those of other regulated providers for all age groups. Listed unregulated providers reported average costs ranging from \$146.43 for infants to \$139.39 for 4- to 5-year-olds. The ADHS certified group homes followed, with average costs ranging from \$141.82 for infants to \$129.55 for 4- to 5-year-olds. DES certified homes reported average costs ranging from \$134.06 for infants to \$128.16 for 4- to 5-year-olds. Finally, the average full-time weekly cost for each age group across all types of providers is presented, ranging from \$146.43 for infants to \$139.29 for 4- to 5-year-olds.

Table 10. North Pima Region Number of Early Childhood Education and Care Providers on CCR&R List Serving Each Age Group and the Average Full-Time Cost per Age Group per Week, December 2013

	Total No.	Under 1 Year Old	1 Year Olds	2 Years Olds	3 Years Olds	4 - 5 Years Old	5-12 Years Old
ADHS Licensed Centers Reporting Services	89	18	25	31	52	60	59
Reporting Costs		14	17	17	20	25	17
Average Full Time Cost by Age Per Week	\$161.79	\$195.43	\$174.29	\$170.00	\$157.00	\$156.64	\$117.35
ADHS Certified Group Homes Reporting Services and Costs	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Average Full Time Cost by Age Per Week	\$132.03	\$141.82	\$134.55	\$133.18	\$129.55	\$129.55	\$123.50
DES Certified Homes Reporting Services and Costs	19	16	17	18	19	19	19
Average Full Time Cost by Age Per Week	\$129.80	\$134.06	\$130.29	\$130.00	\$129.47	\$128.16	\$126.84
Listed Home (Unregulated) Reporting Services	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

and Costs							
Average Full Time Cost by Age Per Week		\$146.43	\$139.29	\$139.29	\$139.29	\$139.29	\$136.00
TOTAL Providers (And Those Reporting Age Groups and Costs)	127	53	61	68	90	98	97
Average Cost Across All Providers That Reported Costs	\$139.93	\$154.44	\$144.61	\$143.12	\$138.83	\$138.41	\$125.92
Subset: Head Start (Licensed No Cost)	4						

Source: Child and Family Resources, DES CCR&R database, accessed December 2013

The cost of child care is one of the primary factors that influence parental decisions about the type of child care they choose. If we assume that for working families full-time child care involves paying for 50 weeks per year, it is possible to compare the yearly cost of childcare to yearly family income. The estimated median family income from the 2008-2012 ACS was \$58,473 for Pima County and \$47,201 for Tucson (it was not possible to compute a figure for the North Pima region). Table 11 presents estimates of the average yearly cost of child care, which ranged from \$7,721 for infants to \$6,941 for 4- to 5-year-olds across all types of providers in December 2013, and an average across all age groups of \$7,194. This represents about 12 percent of gross median family income at the county level and about 15 percent of gross median family income for Tucsonans. It represents a much higher proportion of after-tax income. For any family earning the median income or below, paying for child care in a regulated setting is a major expense and in many cases unaffordable. For the families of the estimated 11.5% of children birth through age five who were reported to live below 100 percent of the poverty level in the 2008-2012 ACS (n=1,766), placing their children in a formal setting is not feasible without a subsidy. Full-time early childhood care and education in a regulated setting continues to be out of range for many middle class families and all low-income families that do not receive a subsidy. The next section addresses the DES subsidy for family child care.

Table 11. North Pima Region Estimated Yearly Cost of Full-Time Early Childhood Education and Care

Based on CCR&R (based on 50 weeks per year)

	Total No.	Under 1 Year Old	1 Year Old	2 Years Old	3 Years Old	4 - 5 Years Old
ADHS Licensed Centers Reporting	89	18	25	31	33	34

Costs						
Estimated Average Full Time Cost by Age	\$8,533.60	\$9,771.50	\$8,714.50	\$8,500.00	\$7,850.00	\$7,832.00
ADHS Certified Group Homes Reporting Costs	11	10	10	10	10	10
Estimated Average Full Time Cost by Age	\$6,686.50	\$7,091.00	\$6,727.50	\$6,659.00	\$6,477.50	\$6,477.50
DES Certified Homes Reporting Costs	19	16	17	18	19	19
Estimated Average Full Time Cost by Age	\$6,519.80	\$6,703.00	\$6,514.50	\$6,500.00	\$6,473.50	\$6,408.00
Number of Listed Homes Reporting Costs	8	5	5	5	5	5
Estimated Average Full Time Cost by Age	\$7,035.90	\$7,321.50	\$6,964.50	\$6,964.50	\$6,964.50	\$6,964.50
Estimated Average Cost Across All Providers	\$7,193.95	\$7,721.75	\$7,230.25	\$7,155.88	\$6,941.38	\$6,920.50
Total Providers Reporting Costs	75	49	57	64	67	68

Source: Child and Family Resources, DES CCR&R database, accessed December 2013

d. Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Child Care Subsidy

To assist families in the lowest income brackets with child care costs, DES provides subsidies to families meeting specific eligibility criteria (see Appendix G for the criteria for 2012). One of the pillars of national welfare reform in the 1990s was to provide child care subsidies to low income families to enable them to enter and remain in the workforce. Due to the downturn in the economy and in state revenues, legislative decisions about spending priorities have resulted in the reduction of a number of family support programs, including the child care subsidies. As a result, the number of families and children

eligible for and receiving DES child care subsidies has decreased in recent years. The Arizona Department of Economic Security provided data for this report on the number of families and children eligible for and receiving benefits at the state, county and zip code levels. State, county and zip code level data were provided for January 2010, 2011 and 2012. Table 12 presents the numbers for Arizona, and Table 13 presents the numbers for Pima County and the North Pima region.

In Arizona the number of eligible families decreased by 17 percent whereas the number of families receiving the paid benefits decreased by 1 percent only during the 3-year period. The number of children birth through age five eligible for benefits decreased by 15 percent during the 3-year period. In contrast, the number of children receiving the paid benefits increased by 7 percent during this time period.

In Pima County, the number of eligible families decreased by 17 percent and the number of families receiving the paid benefits increased by 0.1 percent during the 3-year time period. The number of children eligible decreased by nearly 19 percent whereas the number receiving the paid benefits increased by 6 percent.

In the North Pima region, applying the current regional boundaries for all three years, the number of eligible families decreased by 15.0 percent and the number of families receiving the paid benefits decreased by 0.8 percent. The number of children eligible for benefits decreased by 15.5 percent while the number of children receiving the paid benefits increased by 6.0 percent during the 3-year period. About 94 percent of the families and children who qualified for the benefits in January 2012 received the paid benefits, numbering 356 and 498 respectively.

The reduction in child care subsidies has a number of implications for families and providers in the North Pima region. The impact of the cuts on many working families is that parents must stay home to care for their children, foregoing earned income, or must find more affordable informal or unregulated care to keep their jobs. The quality of care for many children is therefore jeopardized. In response to the cuts, the North Pima Regional Partnership Council is expending funds on providing scholarships to children through Quality First enrolled providers.

Table 12. DES Child Care Subsidies: Monthly Snapshots of Families and Children 0-5 Eligible and Receiving in January 2010, 2011 and 2012 in Arizona

	Arizona			
	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	% change Jan. 10 to Jan. 12
No. of Families Eligible	15,842	14,708	13,187	-17%
No. of Families Receiving	13,014	11,924	12,820	-1%
Percent Receiving	82%	81%	97%	
No. of Children Eligible	23,183	21,510	19,665	-15%
No. of Children Receiving	17,856	17,596	19,036	7%
Percent Receiving	77%	82%	97%	

Source: DES, obtained for FTF, January 2014

Table 13. DES Child Care Subsidies: Monthly Snapshots of Families and Children 0-5 Eligible and Receiving in January 2010, 2011 and 2012 in Pima County and North Pima Region

	Pima County				North Pima Region			
	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	% change Jan. 10 to Jan. 12	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	% change Jan. 10 to Jan. 12
No. of Families Eligible	3,952	3,714	3,379	-17.0%	436	419	379	-15.0%
No. of Families Receiving	3,300	3,007	3,304	0.1%	359	306	356	-0.8%

Percent Receiving	83.5%	81.0%	97.8%		82.3%	73.0%	93.9%	
No. of Children Eligible	5,725	5,274	4,817	-18.8%	603	587	522	-15.5%
No. of Children Receiving	4,467	4,315	4,752	6.0%	468	445	498	6.0%
Percent Receiving	78.0%	81.8%	98.7%		77.6%	75.8%	95.4%	

Source: DES, obtained for FTF, January 2014

2. Quality

Given the number of parents in the workforce, high quality early childhood education programs are critical. For low income parents, access to quality providers is highly dependent on cost, as discussed in the previous section.

a. Licensing and Certification

High quality programs must demonstrate certain characteristics and meet specific standards. Licensed and accredited centers are typically associated with higher quality. In Arizona, the Department of Health Services operates the Office of Child Care Licensing and is charged with enforcing state regulations for licensed centers. Being a licensed facility is a costly and complex process, which involves managing a complicated paperwork bureaucracy in addition to understanding and meeting requirements that are described in long, detailed licensing regulations. Among the areas overseen are: citizenship or resident status, personnel qualifications and records, equipment standards, safety, indoor and outdoor facilities, food safety and nutrition, transportation including for special needs children, discipline, sleeping materials, diaper changing, cleaning and sanitation, pets and animals, accident and emergency procedures, illness and infestation, medications, field trips, outdoor activities and equipment, liability insurance and regulations, and much more. Public schools as well as private entities can operate licensed facilities. ADHS also certifies (licenses) and supervises family child care group homes, which adhere to a different set of application and regulation criteria but cover similar categories as those described above.

The Department of Economic Security is charged with certifying and supervising providers in a residential setting for up to four children at one time for compensation. Among the requirements are citizenship/residence status; an approved backup provider; tuberculosis testing and fingerprint clearance of all family members, personnel, and backup providers; CPR and first aid certification, six hours of training per year; indoor and outdoor regulations for square footage, locks, fences, sanitation, swimming pools and spas, fire safety exits, pets, equipment, and much more. Many in-home providers do not seek certification even though it affords them the opportunity to provide care to families receiving DES subsidies. The decrease in DES subsidies may be impacting the quality of care in the region because

providers operating in an environment of economic uncertainty may be discouraged from seeking formal licensure, resulting in lack of oversight and access to quality enhancements.

b. Head Start

Head Start, the long-standing federally funded program, is the lowest cost option (free) for high quality care for low-income parents who fall below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. These centers meet rigorous federal performance standards and regulations and are monitored every three years. Child-Parent Centers, Inc. is the agency that oversees the Head Start programs in southern Arizona, which includes Pima, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties. In addition to providing high quality education programs, Early Head Start zero- to three-year-olds) and Head Start (three- to five-year-olds) provide comprehensive services to children regarding medical and dental care, and immunizations. Referrals to comprehensive services are also available to parents including job training, housing assistance, emergency assistance (food, clothing), English as Second Language training, mental health services, adult education, GED, and other support programs. Extensive data are collected on all services provided to the children and their families. The Head Start programs in the North Pima region are shown in Table 14.

Table 14. Head Start Programs in the North Pima Region

	Zip Code
Desert Winds Head Start	85743
Marana Head Start	85753
Coronado Head Start	85739

Source: <https://www.childparentconnection.org>

c. Quality First

First Things First and the North Pima Regional Council are addressing the importance of high quality early childhood care and education. They are doing so through several strategies, primarily through Quality First. Quality First is First Things First's statewide quality improvement and rating system for providers of center- or home-based early care and education. Enrolled providers receive:

- 1) Program assessments;
- 2) Individualized coaching and quality improvement planning;
- 3) Financial incentives to help support the quality improvement process;
- 4) T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships; and
- 5) Child Care Health Consultation.

Each of the components listed above has multiple facets with specialized personnel working closely with each of the centers. In addition, the Quality First program in the process of incorporating a rating system that indicates a provider's progress toward achieving high quality standards. The rating signifies these

accomplishments and is intended to assist parents in identifying programs that provide high quality early care and education. The rating system is as follows:

- five stars – far exceeds quality standards
- four stars – exceeds quality standards
- three stars – meets quality standards
- two stars - approaching quality standards
- one star – committed to quality improvement
- no rating – program is enrolled in Quality First but does not yet have a public rating

The criteria on which centers are evaluated include:

- Health and safety practices that promote children’s basic well being
- Staff qualifications, including experience working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers as well as training or college coursework in early childhood development and education
- Teacher-child interactions that are positive, consistent and nurture healthy development and learning
- Learning environments, including age-appropriate books, toys and learning materials that promote emotional, social, language and cognitive development
- Lessons that follow state requirements or recommendations for infants, toddlers and preschoolers
- Group sizes that give young children the individual attention they need
- Child assessment and parent communication that keeps families regularly informed of their child’s development.²

In order to participate in Quality First, a provider must be regulated, which means *licensed, certified or monitored by Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Department of Economic Security, United States Department of Defense, United States Health and Human Services (Head Start Bureau) or Tribal Governments*. In Southern Arizona, Southwest Human Development conducts the assessments, and The United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona, Child & Family Resources, Community Extension Programs, and Easter Seals Blake Foundation provide the ongoing coaching services. In fiscal year 2013, North Pima region had 31 providers enrolled in Quality First (see Appendix F). This is a landmark strategy that is already contributing to improvements in quality in participating centers.

II.B. Supporting Children and Families

Supportive services for families include a variety of formal and informal services, supports, and tangible goods that are determined by a family’s needs. Support can be provided in homes, at early care and education service programs, and in the broader network of community-based services. The purpose of family support is to promote the well-being of children and families and build on the strengths of family members in an atmosphere of respect for the family’s culture, language, and values. Family support

² <http://qualityfirstaz.com/providers/star-ratings/>

practices and strategies are a common program component of child abuse and neglect prevention as well as family preservation programs.³

Exemplary early care and education centers use evidence-based program strategies to build protective factors that support families that can ultimately prevent child abuse and neglect.⁴ In an early care and education setting, family support may be provided by teachers, a family resource specialist, and/or outside providers. These may include: family assessment and plans to address family needs, referrals to resources and services, informal counseling, parenting information, family literacy programs, lending libraries, drop-in times for parents to meet staff and other parents, and organizing fun family activities.

The North Pima Regional Partnership Council identified the need to increase access to comprehensive family education and support services. The primary strategies for addressing this need are to coordinate and integrate funded activities with existing family support systems and to increase the availability of resources that support language and literacy development for young children and their families. Nearly all of the indicators described in this needs and assets report, such as low education and high poverty levels, point to the need for intensified family support services in the areas of remedial education, literacy, and economic and nutritional assistance. The North Pima Regional Council's efforts in this area are described later in this section. What immediately follows are indicators that describe additional areas of need that relate to family support.

1. State and Federal Supports

The state of Arizona provides supportive services for children and their families, in large part with federal funding. These include cash assistance and supportive services to help meet children's basic needs (through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and The Women, Infants and Children Programs), screening and supports to identify and address developmental delays or disabilities, and child safety services aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect in at-risk families.

a. Child and Family Support: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SNAP (Food Stamps) and WIC Enrollments

Three programs discussed in this section provide families with cash assistance and supportive services to help meet family's basic needs.

The TANF program, or Cash Assistance program, is administered by the Arizona Department of Economic Security and provides temporary cash benefits and supportive services to the neediest of Arizona's children and their families. According to the DES website, the program is designed to help families meet their basic needs for well-being and safety, and serves as a bridge back to self-sufficiency. Eligibility is based on citizenship or qualified noncitizen resident status, Arizona residency, and limits on

³Arizona Department of Health Services (2009). *Arizona's Project Launch Environmental Scan Report*. <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/index.htm>

⁴Center for the Study of Social Policy, *Key Program Elements: Family Support Services. Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education*, <http://www.cssp.org>

resources and monthly income. DES uses means testing⁵ rather than the HHS Federal Poverty Guidelines for determining program TANF eligibility, so it is difficult to estimate the numbers of children and families who might be eligible in the North Pima region.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is administered by the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The program helps to provide healthy food to low-income families with children and vulnerable adults. The term “food stamps” has become outdated since DES replaced paper coupons with more efficient electronic debit cards. Program eligibility is based on income and resources according to household size, and the gross income limit is 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.⁶

The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) is available to Arizona’s pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, as well as infants and children birth through age four who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The program provides a monthly supplement of food from the basic food groups. Participants are given vouchers to use at the grocery store for the approved food items. A federal program revision made in October 2009 requires vouchers for the purchase of more healthy food such as fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables.⁷

Table 15 displays the number of TANF, SNAP and WIC recipients in the North Pima region, Pima County and Arizona in January 2012. In the North Pima region, 111 children, or approximately 0.7 percent of the 15,361 children birth through age five from the 2010 Census, received TANF benefits. This proportion is lower than that of Pima County (2.7 percent) and Arizona (2.3 percent). TANF enrollments are low and have declined in recent years because of state legislative actions to restrict program benefits. In July 2010, the lifetime benefit limit for TANF was reduced from 60 months to 36 months, so all families that had received TANF from 37 to 60 months were immediately removed from the TANF program. In August 2011, the lifetime benefit was further reduced from 36 months to 24 months, families that had received more than 24 months were also removed.

In the North Pima region, Pima County and Arizona, the proportion of children receiving SNAP benefits in January 2012 was much higher than for TANF benefits. Approximately 5,267 children birth through age five were receiving nutritional assistance in the North Pima region in January 2012, or 34.3 percent of the 15,361 children in this age group reported in the 2010 Census. In Pima County, 42.0 percent of children birth through age five received this benefit (n = 31,383), and statewide, 40.2 percent of children in this age group received SNAP (n = 219,926).

The WIC data shown in Table 15 reveal that in January 2012, 1,707 children birth through age four were enrolled in the North Pima region. This represents 81.4 percent of the 2,139 children who were eligible for the program. Comparatively, 82.8 percent of children birth through age four in Pima County and 80.9 percent of Arizona children birth through age four were enrolled of those eligible for the program.

⁵ TANF’s eligibility process includes determination of a family unit’s monthly earned and unearned assets and other factors.

⁶ <http://www.azdes.gov/print.aspx?id=5206>

⁷ <http://www.azdhs.gov/azwic/eligibility.htm>

DES also provided data for TANF, SNAP and WIC for January 2009 through 2012 in every zip code; this is reported in Part Two of the report (The Zip Code Fact Box Resource Guide).

Table 15. Families, Women and Children 0-5 Eligible for and Receiving TANF, SNAP (Food Stamps) and WIC in Arizona, Pima County, and North Pima Region, January 2012 Snapshot

	Arizona	Pima County	North Pima Region
TANF Family Recipients with Children 0-5	9,427	1,563	85
TANF Children 0-5 Recipients	12,358	1,990	111
SNAP (Food Stamp Recipients): Families with Children 0-5	150,952	22,325	2,208
SNAP (Food Stamp Recipients): Children 0-5	219,926	31,383	5,267
WIC Certified (Eligible) Women	47,546	6,273	601
WIC Participating Women	40,780	2,324	479
WIC Certified (Eligible) Children 0-4	155,547	19,849	2,096
WIC Participating Children 0-4	132,657	7,742	1,668

Source: DES and ADHS, obtained for FTF, January 2014

b. Developmental Screening and Services

A child that has been identified with developmental delays or disabilities may need an array of supports and resources to help them learn and thrive. Children birth through age 5.9 years with developmental delays or disabilities are eligible for screening and services from the Division of Disabilities (DDD).

Table 16 shows that in 2012, 135 children birth through age 5.9 years in the North Pima region were referred for screening, 78 were screened, and 180 received services (including children screened in previous years). The number of service visits that occurred, 9,874, demonstrates the intensive nature of the services provided. The extent of need for these services in the region is not known.

Table 16. Children Birth through age 5.9 Referred for Screening and Receiving Services from the Department of Developmental Disabilities in Arizona, Pima County and North Pima Region, 2012

	Arizona	Pima County	North Pima Region
DDD No. of Children Referred for Screening	2,817	369	135
DDD No. of Children Screened	1,405	341	78
DDD No. of Children Served	5,231	593	180
DDD No. of Service Visits for All Children Served	534,419	43,650	9,874

Source: DES, obtained for FTF, January 2014.

c. Child Safety Services

Child safety and security are crucial for healthy child development. Ongoing family support services are instrumental in preventing child abuse and neglect in at-risk families. Indicators on child abuse and neglect are difficult to interpret due to the limitations of official record-keeping and their low incidence in the general population.

Table 17 displays the total number of children in foster care who entered it at the age of five or younger due to child abuse and neglect in Fiscal Years 2010, 2011 and 2012. In 2012, 124 child removals were occurred in the North Pima region. This represents a slight increase from the 122 cases reported in 2010 and the 110 reported in 2011.

Table 17. Children in Foster Care on Last Day of the State Fiscal Year Who Entered Care at Age 5 or Younger in Arizona, Pima County, and North Pima Region in 2010, 2011 and 2012⁸

	Arizona	Pima County	North Pima Region
SFY 2010	4,976	1,327	110
SFY 2011	5,206	1,202	122
SFY 2012	6,392	1,427	124

Source: DES, obtained for FTF, January 2014

2. FTF Funded Family Support Services

The North Pima Regional Partnership Council implemented a combined strategy of in-home parenting education (home visitation) and community-based parenting education in order to increase service accessibility for families. Several non-profit organizations were funded to provide comprehensive family

⁸ See Appendix E for considerations regarding this data set.

support services that include many of the evidence-based program strategies described earlier. The funded community partners are listed below.

- The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
- Child and Family Resources
- The Parent Connection
- Parent Aid
- Amphitheater School District
- Make Way for Books
- Marana School District
- Casa de los Niños
- Sunnyside School District
- Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
- Easter Seals Blake Foundation
- International Rescue Committee
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

a. Home-based Family Support (Home Visitation)

Families receive in-home support to assist them as they raise their young children. Guidance and support are provided on the following topics: child development; peer support for families; resource and referral information; health-related information; child and family literacy. Organizations work in funded and unfunded partnership to provide First Things First services in the region, in addition to a variety of other organizations and social service agencies. The North Pima Regional Partnership Council recognized the need to provide multiple evidence-based home visitation programs to support the diverse make up of families in the region. In order to maximize coordination efforts, all home visitation grantees and subgrantees actively participate in the Family Support Alliance led by the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona.

b. Community-based Parent Education

Families can access educational and support services in community locations such as libraries and community centers and receive information on parenting that includes child development, child health and safety, early language and literacy development, and the social-emotional development of the child.

In addition to these family support strategies and services, the North Pima Regional Partnership Council coordinates and collaborates with the United Way of Southern Arizona Family Support Alliance. The Alliance's mission is to collaborate and coordinate with the multitude of service providers in Tucson and Southern Arizona in order to create a more seamless system of services for families and children. The Alliance includes a number of partners active in the provision of family support services in the greater North Pima region. The Alliance's goals and activities are further described in the section on early childhood system collaboration and coordination.

II.C. Health

This section summarizes current health data for the North Pima region, Pima County and Arizona as they relate to birth characteristics, prenatal health and child immunizations.

1. Birth Characteristics and Prenatal Health

Tables 18, 19 and 20 present birth and prenatal health data from 2010, 2011 and 2012 for Arizona, Pima County, and the North Pima region, respectively. The data come from Arizona Department of Health's Vital Statistics Office.

In 2012, a total of 85,652 births were reported in Arizona, a decrease from the 86,838 births reported in 2010 (Table 18). The number of Pima County births fluctuated over the three-year period from 2010 and 2012. The numbers decreased from 11,850 in 2010 to 11,590 in 2011, but then increased to 11,620 in 2012 (Table 19). Births for the North Pima region increased slightly. There were 2,250 births in the region in both 2010 and 2011 and 2,320 births in 2012 (Table 20).

Approximately two thirds of children born in the North Pima region (66.7 percent) in 2012 were white, significantly more than both the Pima County average of 43.2 percent and state average of 45.3 percent. As for ethnicity, the North Pima region's proportion of Hispanic/Latino children was much lower than that of the county and state. North Pima Hispanic/Latino births made up 22.6 percent of all births in the region. By comparison, Hispanic/Latino births in 2012 represented 44.8 percent of all Pima County births and 38.6 percent of all births statewide.

Birth characteristic data show the North Pima region has indicators of somewhat more positive prenatal health than Pima County and the state. Fewer than 25 mothers in the region lacked prenatal care, and the rate was lower than the county's rate of 1.3 percent and state's rate of 1.2 percent. Approximately 3.0 percent of pregnant mothers in the region in 2012 reported smoking, less than the 3.5 percent in the county and 4.0 percent in the state. The region's 2012 pre-term birth rate, at 8.4 percent, is slightly less than that of the county and state, which are 8.9 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively.

Other health risk indicators, relating to family structure and poverty, also put the North Pima County in a better position than the state and county. In the North Pima region in 2012, 26.8 percent of mothers giving birth were not married compared to 44.2 percent for the county and 45.0 percent for the state. The North Pima region had a much lower rate of births to teen mothers (4.7 percent in 2012) than the county (9.1 percent) and state (9.4 percent). The region's share of publicly funded births, 29.7 percent in 2012, was much lower than the county rate of 51.7 and the state rate of 53.1 percent.

Table 18. Birth Characteristics in Arizona in 2010, 2011 and 2012

Arizona						
	2010 Births	% Births	2011 Births	% Births	2012 Births	% Births
Total number of births	86,838		84,810		85,652	
Births to teen mothers (<=19 years old) ¹	9,280	10.7%	8,320	9.8%	8,070	9.4%
Births to unwed Mothers	38,203	44.0%	37,257	43.9%	38,543	45.0%
Publicly-funded births	46,284	53.3%	44,857	52.9%	45,453	53.1%
Race/ethnicity						
White, non-Hispanic	39,590	45.6%	39,110	46.1%	38,760	45.3%
Hispanic or Latino	34,070	39.2%	32,230	38.0%	33,050	38.6%
Black or African American	4,240	4.9%	4,300	5.1%	4,680	5.5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	5,660	6.5%	5,680	6.7%	5,529	6.5%
Asian or other Pacific Islander	3,280	3.8%	3,490	4.1%	3,620	4.2%
Prenatal care in the 1st trimester	71,250	82.0%	69,466	81.9%	70,782	82.6%
No prenatal care	1,370	1.6%	1,340	1.6%	1,050	1.2%
Low birth weight newborns (<2,500 grams at birth)	6,130	7.1%	5,920	7.0%	5,940	6.9%
Infant Deaths	530	0.6%	510	0.6%	510	0.6%
Length of gestation						
<37 weeks	8,340	9.6%	7,880	9.3%	7,890	9.2%
37-41 weeks	78,137	90.0%	76,574	90.3%	77,455	90.4%
42+ weeks	340	0.4%	320	0.4%	270	0.3%
Mother's substance abuse						

Drinker, nonsmoker	260	0.3%	300	0.4%	250	0.3%
Smoker, nondrinker	3,830	4.4%	3,470	4.1%	3,450	4.0%
Smoker and drinker	190	0.2%	130	0.2%	150	0.2%

Source: ADHS Vital Statistics, obtained for FTF, January 2014.

1 Sums rounded to nearest tens by ADHS.

Table 19. Birth Characteristics in Pima County in 2010, 2011 and 2012

Pima County						
	2010 Births	% Births	2011 Births	% Births	2012 Births	% Births
Total number of births	11,850		11,590		11,620	
Births to teen mothers (<=19 years old) ¹	1,265	10.7%	1,115	9.6%	1,054	9.1%
Births to unwed Mothers	5,121	43.2%	5,082	43.8%	5,140	44.2%
Publicly-funded births	6,167	52.0%	5,932	51.2%	6,005	51.7%
Race/ethnicity						
White, non-Hispanic	5,194	43.8%	5,062	43.7%	5,025	43.2%
Hispanic or Latino	5,362	45.2%	5,165	44.6%	5,206	44.8%
Black or African American	532	4.5%	543	4.7%	563	4.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	305	2.6%	355	3.1%	363	3.1%
Asian or other Pacific Islander	454	3.8%	468	4.0%	461	4.0%
Prenatal care in the 1st trimester	8,948	75.5%	8,671	74.8%	8,727	75.1%
No prenatal care	202	1.7%	180	1.6%	151	1.3%
Low birth weight newborns (<2,500 grams at birth)	822	6.9%	813	7.0%	827	7.1%
Infant deaths	63	0.5%	53	0.5%	57	0.5%
Length of gestation						
<37 weeks	1,061	9.0%	1,020	8.8%	1,035	8.9%
37-41 weeks	10,753	90.7%	10,529	90.8%	10,551	90.8%
42+ weeks	29	0.2%	40	0.3%	23	0.2%
Mother's substance abuse						
Drinker, nonsmoker	27	0.2%	17	0.1%	17	0.1%

Smoker, nondrinker	500	4.2%	424	3.7%	406	3.5%
Smoker and drinker	30	0.3%	9	0.1%	19	0.2%

Source: ADHS Vital Statistics, obtained for FTF, January 2014

1 Sums rounded to nearest tens by ADHS.

Table 20. Birth Characteristics in North Pima Region in 2010, 2011 and 2012

North Pima Region						
	2010 Births	% Births	2011 Births	% Births	2012 Births	% Births
Total number of births	2,250		2,250		2,320	
Births to teen mothers (<=19 years old) ¹	114	5.1%	94	4.2%	110	4.7%
Births to unwed Mothers	603	26.8%	618	27.5%	622	26.8%
Publicly-funded births	707	31.4%	690	30.7%	690	29.7%
Race/ethnicity						
White, non-Hispanic	1,546	68.7%	1,545	68.7%	1,547	66.7%
Hispanic or Latino	514	22.8%	507	22.5%	525	22.6%
Black or African American	41	1.8%	58	2.6%	63	2.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native	25	1.1%	26	1.2%	33	1.4%
Asian or other Pacific Islander	124	5.5%	116	5.2%	153	6.6%
Prenatal care in the 1st trimester	1,775	78.9%	1,784	79.3%	1,870	80.6%
No prenatal care	<25	-	<25	-	<25	-
Low birth weight newborns (<2,500 grams at birth)	144	6.4%	135	6.0%	145	6.3%
Infant deaths	-	-	<25	-	<25	-
Length of gestation						
<37 weeks	185	8.2%	193	8.6%	195	8.4%
37-41 weeks	2,062	91.6%	2,053	91.2%	2,121	91.4%
42+ weeks	-	-	<25	-	-	-
Mother's substance abuse						
Drinker, nonsmoker	-	-	-	-	-	-

Smoker, nondrinker	82	3.6%	70	3.1%	69	3.0%
Smoker and drinker	-	-	0	0.0%	-	-

Source: ADHS Vital Statistics, obtained for FTF, January 2014

1 Sums rounded to nearest tens by ADHS; cell count less than 6 suppressed.

2. Child Immunizations

Child immunization numbers were obtained at the zip code level from the Arizona Department of Health Services for 2010, 2011 and 2012. These zip code level rates are available in Part Two of the report (The Zip Code Fact Box Resource Guide).

The immunization series referred to in Table 19 are defined as follows:

- 3:2:2:2 series (3 diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, 2 poliovirus, 2 *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib), and 2 hepatitis B vaccines)
- 4:3:1:3:3:1 series combination = 4 doses DTP or DTaP, 3 doses Polio, 1 dose MMR, 3 doses Hib, 3 doses Hepatitis B, and 1 dose Varicella vaccine.⁹

ADHS reported each series separately, as shown in Table 21. For both series, the completion rates for 2012 in the North Pima region are similar to those of the county and slightly higher than those of the state. The completion rates for series one, pertaining to children 12 to 24 months old, are higher than those for series two, pertaining to children 19 to 35 months, by about 20 percent.

Table 21. Child Immunizations, Number and Percent Completed in Arizona, Pima County and North Pima Region, January 2012 Snapshot

	Arizona	Pima County	North Pima Region
Number 3:2:2:2 completed 12-24 months	64,469	9,620	1,823
Percent 3:2:2:2 completed 12-24 months	69.2%	73.6%	73.2%
Number 4:3:1:3:3:1 completed 19-35 months	61,420	9,652	1,855
Percent 4:3:1:3:3:1 completed 19-35 months	47.9%	55.2%	53.5%

Source: ADHS, obtained for FTF, January 2014.

⁹ Definitions obtained from Centers for Disease Control Morbidity and Mortality Report, September 2013, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6236a1.htm>.

II.D. Public Awareness and Collaboration

As part of a comprehensive system of early childhood development and health, investments in universal parent outreach and awareness are meant to increase all parents' awareness of child development and child health and the availability of resources, support, and services so that they have the information and tools to support their child's growth and development.¹⁰ Collaboration and coordination of the resources and supportive services is a cornerstone of the early childhood system. This section addresses public awareness (i.e. information systems) and collaboration and coordination (i.e. systems of resources that support families).

1. Public Awareness and Communication

Public awareness about First Things First and its mission can be conceptualized on two levels: 1) at the parent or family level where information is provided that increases parents' or caregivers' knowledge of and access to quality early childhood development information and resources, and 2) at a broad public level, in terms of increasing public's awareness or familiarity with the importance of early care and childhood education and how that connects to First Things First's mission as a publicly funded program. Current information about what is known in these areas is described below.

a. Parents' Knowledge about Early Childhood Development: The Family and Community Survey 2012

The First Things First Family Support Framework states that, "An integral component of an effective family support infrastructure ensures that information is available in a variety of forms and addresses the concerns families may have." Furthermore, information provided to families must do the following:

- Connect programs across communities
- Be culturally appropriate and relevant
- Build on family strengths and knowledge
- Provide accurate information
- Offer opportunities for sharing among and between families through various family and social networks¹¹

Gaps in these information areas are indicators of unmet needs that require asset building. The most recent primary source available for documenting current public awareness regarding early care and childhood education is the 2012 FTF Family and Community Survey.

The results from the Family & Community Survey were disaggregated for the region and were analyzed to provide insight into the public's awareness and knowledge about early childhood development and age appropriate behavior. When the 153 adult respondents in the North Pima region were asked about when a parent can begin to have significant impact on a child's brain development, 89 percent responded "prenatally and from birth," compared to 80 percent across the state. The findings in Table 22 highlight other trends in understanding early childhood development

¹⁰ <http://www.azftf.gov/pages/WebMain.aspx?PagelId=9E8669C97C0C408B9F3567C855744398&StrategyId=118>

¹¹ Ibid.

Table 22. Parental Knowledge Findings from 2012 Family and Community Survey, North Pima Region

Language and literacy development	63% of respondents indicated that television definitely or probably does not promote language development as effectively as personal conversation.
Emotional development	51% of respondents believed that infants can begin to sense their parents' emotions between birth and one month of age.
Capacity for learning is set at birth	63% of respondents did not agree with the statement that a child's capacity for learning is pretty much set from birth and cannot be greatly increased or decreased by how the parents interact with them.

Source: FTF

This assessment of adults' understanding of early development and the timing of children's early abilities identified several opportunities, especially related to language and communication, which highlight areas in which some parents can benefit from additional education and accurate information. Improving parents' understanding of these concepts may positively impact the degree to which they interact optimally with their children.

First Things First has a number of activities that focus on increasing parent awareness and outreach. Currently, statewide strategies that support regional efforts in this area are the Arizona Parent Kit and the Birth to Five Helpline. The Parent Kit is available to all families of newborns as they are discharged from their birthing hospital while the Helpline is a toll-free phone service open to all families with young children looking for the latest child development information from experts in the field.¹²

Regionally, there are multiple and overlapping strategies and activities to address parent outreach and awareness. Activities include the use of media, resource distribution (e.g. children's books, resource guides, child development and child health fact sheets or parenting tip sheets), and parenting education workshops. Many of these activities are conducted by North Pima's partners who are coordinating and collaborating to build a system of support services to families with young children. Also, it is important to note that the North Pima region continues to build trusting relationships with many of the rural communities within its boundaries which enhances increased parent outreach and education. The progress occurring in these areas is described in the following sections.

b. Community Awareness and Community Outreach

The North Pima Regional Partnership Council has identified the need to increase the level of awareness about early childhood health and development throughout the region. The council has implemented a strategy that provides access to a variety of community-based activities and materials to increase public awareness on the importance of early childhood development and health through participation in community events, and the dissemination of materials.

¹² <http://www.azftf.gov/pages/WebMain.aspx?PagelId=9E8669C97C0C408B9F3567C855744398&StrategyId=118>

The North Pima region has partnered with Central and South Pima Regions, as well as the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Tohono O’odham Regional Partnership Councils in a cross-regional joint communication plan that includes media, printed material, and support of a contracted team of consultants to do public outreach. Their community outreach efforts have included: support for Community Outreach consultants to assist with identifying and presenting to local organizations, organizing site visits, gathering stories related to the impact of FTF strategies, and recruiting and retaining champions for early childhood education and health. The Southeast Area Cross-Regional Communications Plan targeted a diverse audience of groups and populations that are considered to be key partners in a successful early childhood system:

- FTF Regional Partnership Councils and grantees
- Early childhood coalitions/advocacy organizations
- Medical community
- Women’s organizations
- Faith-based Organizations
- K-12 community
- Elders and 55+
- Colleges and Universities
- Business leaders
- Public policy makers/influencers

2. North Pima Region Coordination and Collaboration; System-building Efforts

Coordination and collaboration across various systems and services are needed to create an effective family support infrastructure in an early childhood system. They can span educational, economic, health and cultural resources. Coordination is identified as one of the six Goal Areas that will be accomplished by First Things First in order to build the Arizona early childhood system. In order to accomplish this coordination goal, First Things First is directed to foster cross-system collaboration efforts among local, state, federal and tribal organizations to improve the coordination and integration of Arizona programs, services and resources for young children and their families.¹³ Cross-system efforts may include a wide variety of activities, but in general it involves people and organizations working together at varying levels of intensity on a common purpose. The First Things First Standard of Practice on Coordination defines different levels of working together from networking and cooperation to higher intensity efforts such as coordination and collaboration. Coordination involves more formal working relationships between organizations that maintain their individual authority but may share some resources and rewards. Collaboration is considered to be the most intensive, durable, yet most challenging of cross-system efforts because it involves organizations to enter into a formal commitment to share a common mission, authority and resources.

As a result of coordination and collaboration, services are often easier to access and are implemented in a manner that is more responsive to the needs of the children and families. Coordination and collaboration

¹³ First Things First, Coordination Standard of Practice-Service, accessed at <http://www.azftf.gov/pages/WebMain.aspx?PageId=9E8669C97C0C408B9F3567C855744398&StrategyId=46>

may also result in greater capacity to deliver services because organizations are working together to identify and address gaps in service.¹⁴

Since 2008, much has been accomplished in building an early childhood system in the region and cross-regionally. First Things First developed a set of guiding documents for its Regional Partnership Councils and partners that includes best practices and sets the standards for services coordination and collaboration. These standards and best practices inform the North Pima Regional Partnership Council in its efforts to coordinate and collaborate both within and across regions in Pima County. New developments in systems collaboration and coordination in the region are highlighted in this section.

a. Project M.O.R.E. (More Opportunities for Rural Educators)

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona works in collaboration with Child and Family Resources, who manages Project M.O.R.E. The goal of Project M.O.R.E. is to recruit child care providers of young children birth through age five to become regulated by either the Department of Economic Services (DES) or the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). Emphasis was placed on recruiting participants in outlying rural areas in the region. The project includes financial assistance for becoming certified or licensed, ongoing professional development on a monthly basis, and assistance in applying for other First Things First program and services such as Quality First, REWARD\$, and T.E.A.C.H. In fiscal years 2013 and 2014, 7 home-based providers per fiscal year in North Pima were targeted for certification by DES or ADHS.

b. Cross-Regional Coordination and Collaboration

Coordination across the FTF Southeast Area regions has been intentional and has resulted in the implementation of several cross-regional implementation efforts of which North Pima has been a part. Also, North Pima coordinates and partners with an active coalition of organizations and child advocates for early childhood education and care. Several of these coalitions and partnerships existed prior to First Things First and were major contributors to the conceptualization and support of FTF statewide. New and continuing developments in systems collaboration and coordination in the region are highlighted in this section.

1. The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, First Focus on Kids Community Initiative

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, First Focus on Kids (FFK) has played a long-standing role in promoting and building a system of early care and childhood education in the region. It is a cross-regional partnership comprised of a local council of community representatives formed around enhancing the quality and availability of child care since 1999 in Southern Pima County. First Focus on Kids received just over \$9 million from FTF allocations from three Pima Regional Partnership Councils or the state FTF office in FY 2011.¹⁵ Several of FFK's new programs are cross-regional efforts that were either partially or fully funded by the North Pima Region. These are:

- Leadership Development FFK Chairs (Professional Development);
- Family Support Conference (Family Support and Home Visitation);
- T.E.A.C.H Outreach and Support (Professional Development)

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, Annual Report 2010-2011 First Focus on Kids, accessed at <http://www.unitedwaytucson.org/education/first-focus-kids>

2. Home Visitation and Community-based Parent Education

In fiscal year 2013 the North Pima, Central Pima, and South Pima Regional Partnership Councils partnered to issue a joint Request for Grant Application (RFGA) for home visitation services. As a result, two awards were issued: one to the United Way of Tucson Family Support Alliance and one to the Sunnyside Parents As Teachers Collaborative. Both the Alliance and Collaborative represent multiple partners carrying out evidence-based home visitation programs and together, both groups work closely to ensure maximum service delivery and supports to families.

The Family Support Alliance is coordinated formally by the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona and was created to increase the coordination and cohesiveness of family support services in the Southern Arizona region. Its focus is home visitation, parent education, and family support. It has multiple goals, and foremost among them are:

- Families will be able to enter services at multiple entry points and will be able to move from more intensive to less intensive services as a child progresses
- To eliminate gaps in services so geographically isolated families are reached and other at-risk populations are served¹⁶

The Alliance has more than 25 partner organizations working together to help achieve these goals. As described earlier, the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona Family Support Alliance is the administrative home of four FTF Family Support grants funded across all of the FTF Pima regions. The Alliance meets monthly and partners discuss collaboration and coordination issues.

The Parents As Teachers Collaborative works closely with all member organizations within the Collaborative, as well as with the Family Support Alliance to ensure streamlined referrals and coordinated services. They also collaborate to ensure ongoing professional development opportunities are offered and encouraged among the home visitors and parent educators.

The North Pima and Central Pima Regional Partnership Councils partnered to jointly issue a RFGA for community-based parent education. Regardless of where a family may work or reside in either region, they have access to multiple evidence-based community-based parent education opportunities.

3. Community-Based Professional Development for Early Care and Education Professionals

In response to the low rates of higher education attainment and the lack of comprehensive professional development opportunities tied to college credit, the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council has implemented innovative professional development, formally known as Community-Based Professional Development for Early Care and Education Professionals, since fiscal year 2010 and the South Pima Regional Council implemented the strategy in 2011. The continuing need for comprehensive professional development tied to college credit statewide inspired all five Pima regions to issue a joint, single Request for Grant Application (RFGA) in fiscal year 2013 and continuing into fiscal year 2014. The grant—Great Expectations for Children, Teachers, and Families—encourages any early childhood professional in the County to access comprehensive professional development that is tied to college credit. The Community of Practice professional development model targets over 1,700 home-based providers, early childhood

¹⁶ United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona <http://www.unitedwaytucson.org/education/first-focus-kids/family-support-alliance>

professionals, center directors, master's degree students, and students pursuing any early childhood related degree within Pima County.

Communities of Practice, or learning cohorts of early childhood professionals, gather multiple times a year to research a particular topic within each of the regions located in Pima County. The Communities of Practice are referenced as, “groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.”¹⁷ The professional development opportunities through the Communities of Practice are taught by subject matter experts at the local, statewide, and national levels with ties to college level credit. In fiscal year 2014, there are a total of 10 Communities of Practice implemented by the lead grantee, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, with eight additional subgrantees:

- Child and Family Resources
- Easter Seals Blake Foundation
- Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
- Tucson Unified School District
- Early Childhood Development Group
- Tohono O’odham Community College
- Pima Community College, Center for Early Childhood Studies
- University of Arizona, College of Education.

Partners deliver high quality, best practice, and community-based professional development opportunities to early care and education teachers and administrators through a Communities of Practice model which includes ongoing education sessions, opportunities to apply newly learned theories, seminars, lectures, and college level classes to enhance their skills and knowledge in working with children birth through age five. The professional development opportunities are tied to college credit and include academic support and consultation by an early childhood higher education representative affiliated with a higher education institution, such as a local university or community college. Intentional cross-regional coordination is implemented to ensure any early childhood professional in the county has access to professional development (See Appendix H).

Grantees work in partnership with program administrators, family child care providers, center directors, and center owners of early care and education programs to identify professional development needs for staff within core competency areas as well as host subject matter experts (i.e. visiting faculty, published authors, researchers, etc.) during applied theory or consultation professional development sessions.

Multiple higher educational institutions have already articulated agreements to collaborate and coordinate services such as Pima Community College, University of Arizona, and University of Arizona–South. Additional partnerships and collaborations have been formed with Central Arizona College, Rio Salado Community College, Tohono O’odham Community College, and Prescott College.

¹⁷ <http://www.ewenger.com/theory/> cited in First Things First, Standards of Practice, Community-Based Professional Development for Early Care and Education Professionals.

c. Pima County Cross-Regional Communication Plan

As mentioned in the previous section on community outreach, all five regions in Pima County have engaged in a cross-regional communication plan that involves collaboration and coordination. The regions have pooled their resources to better leverage funding. For example, they have purchased TV, radio, and online ads that are shown throughout the Pima regions and on websites frequently accessed by the public. The pooled funding has allowed the five regions to hire two Parent Awareness and Community Outreach Coordinators to conduct community outreach to inform the greater community on the importance of early childhood education, health, and development and the role First Things First plays in ensuring children are ready for kindergarten. One Coordinator works within the North Pima, Central Pima, and South Pima regions while another Coordinator works in the tribal communities of Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The result is that all of the Regional Partnership Councils in Pima County have partners and community stakeholders who work together to create a coordinated message to the community.

These activities demonstrate the progress that the North Pima Regional Partnership Council's investments in strategies have made in creating coordinated efforts across service providers and raising public awareness through coordinated strategies. Great strides have been made in building the system of coordinated services for families and children in the region.

III. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The North Pima region is made up of diverse communities whose families with young children vary in their capacities, resources and needs. Approximately 15,361 children birth through age five live within the 14 inhabited zip codes of the North Pima region. The region includes both affluent and high need metropolitan and suburban areas, incorporated towns and unincorporated rural communities.

Because a county level perspective can mask important needs and assets that exist for the communities within the region, Section Two of this report (the Zip Code Fact Box Resource Guide) provides a rich socio-demographic picture of individual places within the region. This data show significant variation in terms of need on a range of indicators throughout the North Pima region.

For the past six years, the North Pima Regional Partnership Council has sought to fund strategies to coordinate services and build capacity for early childhood care, education and support services. Through partnering with service delivery organizations, the North Pima Regional Partnership Council has sought to create a seamless system of services for families and children that builds trust among community members and provides crucial services, especially in the more remote places of this region.

Child care capacity has increased significantly in the region over the past two years. As of December 2013, the North Pima region's early childhood education and care providers had capacity to care for 59 percent of the 15,361 estimated children birth through age five population in the region. This is an increase of more than one quarter of capacity in two years, as compared to figures from the 2012 Needs and Assets Report. At that time, early childhood and care providers had capacity to care for 42 percent of the children birth through age five in the region. The North Pima Regional Partnership Council continues to support capacity by providing child care scholarships to working parents through Quality First enrolled providers. Professional development and system coordination efforts continue to pave the way for future work impacting the care, health, and educational needs of children birth through five years of age in the North Pima region.

The North Pima Regional Partnership Council's funding strategies and partnerships described in this report have demonstrated a commitment to a long-term sustainable approach for creating an early childhood care and education system and related supports for families of the region.

85704	Zip Code Boundaries	85704	85741	85742
	2000 zip code	100%		
	2010 zip code	100%		
	Casas Adobes	50%	25%	25%

Population and Poverty, Census 2000, 2010 and ACS 2007-2011

	2000 Total	2000 Percent	Census 2010 Pop. & ACS 07-11 Poverty	Percent
Total Population	26,869		30,929	
Population below Poverty (where economic status is reported)	2,025	7.5%	2,694	8.7%
Children 0-5	1,242		1,570	
Children 0-5 below Poverty (where economic status is reported)	152	12.2%	119	7.6%
			Census 2010	Census 2010
Total Number of Families	7,125	100%	8,011	100%
Families with Children 0-5	566	7.9%	727	9.1%
Single Parent Families with Children 0-5	163	2.3%	266	3.3%
Single Parent Families with Children 0-5 (Mother only)	105	1.5%	182	2.3%
			All	Children
Race, Census 2010			Ages	0-5
White			86.9%	74.5%
African American			1.8%	3.0%
American Indian			1.0%	1.8%

Asian			3.3%	3.7%
Other Race Alone and Multiple Races			6.9%	17.0%
Ethnicity, Census 2010:				
Hispanic			16.9%	30.8%
<u>Families and Children Receiving Public Assistance</u>				
	January y 2009	January 2010	January 2011	January 2012
TANF Family Recipients with Children 0-5	26	39 (5.4%)	16	19
TANF Children 0-5 Recipients	30	48 (3.1%)	20	27
Food Stamp Recipients – Families with Children 0-5	184	281 (38.7%)	281	310
Food Stamp Recipients - Children 0-5	257	383 (24.4%)	368	412
WIC Certified Women		105	102	95
WIC Recipients Women		87	80	69
WIC Certified Children 0-4		261	256	266
WIC Recipients Children 0-4		211	216	210

Health and Safety**Child Immunizations**

	January 2010	January 2011	January 2012
3:2:2:2 number completed 12-24 months	195	218	207
3:2:2:2 % completed	64.4%	73.2%	71.9%
4:3:1:3:3:1 number completed 19-35 months	180	208	192
4:3:1:3:3:1 % completed	43.4%	49.1%	47.9%

DDD

	2010 total	2011 Total	2012 Total
# Children Referred for Screening	<25	<25	<25
# Children Screened	<25	<25	<25
# Children Served	<25	<25	<25
# Service Visits for All Children Served	1,856	1,652	1,318

Child Safety and Security

	SFY 2010 Total	SFY 2011 Total	SFY 2012 Total
Children In Foster Care on Last Day of the State Fiscal Year Who Entered Care at Age 5 or Younger	24	18	16

Early Education and Child Care

DES Child Care Subsidies	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012
DES Child Care Subsidy Eligible - Families with 0-5	82	65	68	53
DES Child Care Recipients - Families with 0-5	64 (78%)	57 (88%)	45 (66%)	49 (92%)
DES Child Care Subsidy Eligible - Children 0-5	101	75	83	70

DES Child Care Recipients - Children 0-5		76 (75%)	61 (81%)	55 (66%)	67 (96%)
			April	December	December
			2010	2011	2013
Providers Listed with CCR&R					
ADHS Licensed Centers			13	10	14
ADHS Certified Group Homes			0	1	1
DES Certified Homes			4	1	1
Listed Homes (Unregulated)			0	3	1
Total			17	15	17
Subset: Head Start			0	0	0
Accredited			1	2	6
Quality First			3	6	4